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# THE CONCISE GUIDE TO PHARMACOLOGY 2015/16:

## Nuclear hormone receptors

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### Abstract

The Concise Guide to PHARMACOLOGY 2015/16 provides concise overviews of the key properties of over 1750 human drug targets with their pharmacology, plus links to an open access knowledgebase of drug targets and their ligands ([www.guidetopharmacology.org](http://www.guidetopharmacology.org)), which provides more detailed views of target and ligand properties. The full contents can be found at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/bph.13352/full>. Nuclear hormone receptors are one of the eight major pharmacological targets into which the Guide is divided, with the others being: G protein-coupled receptors, ligand-gated ion channels, voltage-gated ion channels, other ion channels, catalytic receptors, enzymes and transporters. These are presented with nomenclature guidance and summary information on the best available pharmacological tools, alongside key references and suggestions for further reading. The Concise Guide is published in landscape format in order to facilitate comparison of related targets. It is a condensed version of material contemporary to late 2015, which is presented in greater detail and constantly updated on the website [www.guidetopharmacology.org](http://www.guidetopharmacology.org), superseding data presented in the previous Guides to Receptors & Channels and the Concise Guide to PHARMACOLOGY 2013/14. It is produced in conjunction with NC-IUPHAR and provides the official IUPHAR classification and nomenclature for human drug targets, where appropriate. It consolidates information previously curated and displayed separately in IUPHAR-DB and GRAC and provides a permanent, citable, point-in-time record that will survive database updates.

### Conflict of interest

The authors state that there are no conflicts of interest to declare.

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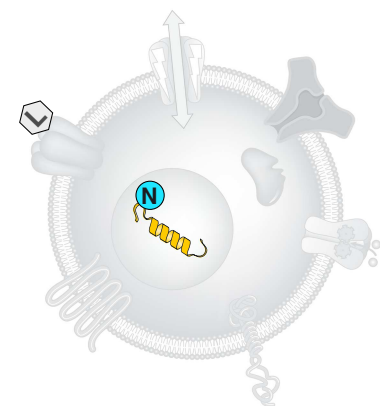
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**Overview:** Nuclear hormone receptors are specialised transcription factors with commonalities of sequence and structure, which bind as homo- or heterodimers to specific consensus sequences of DNA (response elements) in the promoter region of particular target genes. They regulate (either promoting or repressing) transcription of these target genes in response to a variety of endogenous ligands. Endogenous agonists are hydrophobic entities which, when bound to the receptor promote conformational changes in the receptor to allow recruitment (or dissociation) of protein partners, generating a large multiprotein complex.

Two major subclasses of nuclear receptors with identified endogenous agonists can be identified: steroid and non-steroid hormone receptors. Steroid hormone receptors function typically as dimeric entities and are thought to be resident outside the nucleus in the unliganded state in a complex with chaperone proteins, which are liberated upon agonist binding. Migration to the nucleus and interaction with other regulators of gene transcription, including RNA polymerase, acetyltransferases and deacetylases, allows gene transcription to be regulated. Non-steroid hormone receptors typically exhibit a greater distribution in the nucleus in the

unliganded state and interact with other nuclear receptors to form heterodimers, as well as with other regulators of gene transcription, leading to changes in gene transcription upon agonist binding.

Selectivity of gene regulation is brought about through interaction of nuclear receptors with particular consensus sequences of DNA, which are arranged typically as repeats or inverted palindromes to allow accumulation of multiple transcription factors in the promoter regions of genes.



**Family structure**

5958	1A. Thyroid hormone receptors	5965	2A. Hepatocyte nuclear factor-4 receptors	5972	5A. Fushi tarazu F1-like receptors
5959	1B. Retinoic acid receptors	5966	2B. Retinoid X receptors	5973	6A. Germ cell nuclear factor receptors
5960	1C. Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors	5967	2C. Testicular receptors	5974	0B. DAX-like receptors
5961	1D. Rev-Erb receptors	5968	2E. Tailless-like receptors	5975	Steroid hormone receptors
5962	1F. Retinoic acid-related orphans	5969	2F. COUP-TF-like receptors	5975	3A. Estrogen receptors
5963	1H. Liver X receptor-like receptors	5970	3B. Estrogen-related receptors	5976	3C. 3-Ketosteroid receptors
5964	1I. Vitamin D receptor-like receptors	5971	4A. Nerve growth factor 1B-like receptors		

# 1A. Thyroid hormone receptors

Nuclear hormone receptors → 1A. Thyroid hormone receptors

**Overview:** Thyroid hormone receptors (TRs, nomenclature as agreed by the [NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Nuclear Hormone Receptors \[41\]](#)) are nuclear hormone receptors of the NR1A family, with diverse roles regulating macronutrient metabolism, cognition and cardiovascular homeostasis. TRs are activated by thyroxine (T<sub>4</sub>) and thyroid hormone ([triiodothyronine](#)). Once activated by a ligand, the receptor acts as a transcription factor either as a monomer, homodimer or heterodimer with members of the retinoid X receptor family. [NH-3](#) has been described as an antagonist at TRs with modest selectivity for TRβ [[111](#)].

Nomenclature	<a href="#">Thyroid hormone receptor-α</a>	<a href="#">Thyroid hormone receptor-β</a>
Systematic nomenclature	NR1A1	NR1A2
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">THRA</a> , <a href="#">P10827</a>	<a href="#">THRB</a> , <a href="#">P10828</a>
Rank order of potency	<a href="#">triiodothyronine</a> > T <sub>4</sub>	<a href="#">triiodothyronine</a> > T <sub>4</sub>
Agonists	<a href="#">dextrothyroxine</a> [ <a href="#">20</a> ]	<a href="#">dextrothyroxine</a> [ <a href="#">20</a> ]
Selective agonists	–	<a href="#">sobetirome</a> (pK <sub>d</sub> 10.2) [ <a href="#">27</a> , <a href="#">133</a> ]

**Comments:** An interaction with integrin αVβ3 has been suggested to underlie plasma membrane localization of TRs and non-genomic signalling [[9](#)]. One splice variant, TRα<sub>2</sub>, lacks a functional DNA-binding domain and appears to act as a transcription suppressor. Although radioligand binding assays have been described for these receptors, the radioligands are not commercially available.

## Further Reading

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## 1B. Retinoic acid receptors

Nuclear hormone receptors → 1B. Retinoic acid receptors

**Overview:** Retinoic acid receptors (**nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Nuclear Hormone Receptors [46]**) are nuclear hormone receptors of the NR1B family activated by the vitamin A-derived agonists **tretinoin** (ATRA) and **alitretinoin**, and the RAR-selective synthetic agonists **TTNPB** and **adapalene**. **BMS493** is a family-selective antagonist [47].

Nomenclature	Retinoic acid receptor- $\alpha$	Retinoic acid receptor- $\beta$	Retinoic acid receptor- $\gamma$
Systematic nomenclature	NR1B1	NR1B2	NR1B3
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">RARA</a> , <a href="#">P10276</a>	<a href="#">RAR<math>\beta</math></a> , <a href="#">P10826</a>	<a href="#">RARG</a> , <a href="#">P13631</a>
Agonists	<b>tretinoin</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.8) [26]	<b>tretinoin</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.9) [26]	<b>tretinoin</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 9.7) [26]
(Sub)family-selective agonists	<b>tazarotene</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.2) [26]	<b>tazarotene</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 9.1) [26], <b>adapalene</b> (pK <sub>i</sub> 7.5) [25]	<b>tazarotene</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.4) [26], <b>adapalene</b> (pK <sub>i</sub> 6.9) [25]
Selective agonists	<b>BMS753</b> (pK <sub>i</sub> 8.7) [53], <b>Ro 40-6055</b> (pK <sub>d</sub> 8.2) [33], <b>tamibarotene</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.9) [65, 108, 146]	<b>AC261066</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.9–8.1) [90], <b>AC55649</b> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.5–7.3) [90]	<b>AHPN</b> (pK <sub>i</sub> 7.1) [25]
Selective antagonists	<b>Ro 41-5253</b> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.3–7.2) [2, 70]	–	<b>MM 11253</b> [77]

**Comments:** **Ro 41-5253** has been suggested to be a PPAR $\gamma$  agonist [131]. **LE135** is an antagonist with selectivity for RAR $\alpha$  and RAR $\beta$  compared with RAR $\gamma$  [85].

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# 1C. Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors

Nuclear hormone receptors → 1C. Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors

**Overview:** Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors (PPARs, nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Nuclear Hormone Receptors [101]) are nuclear hormone receptors of the NR1C family, with diverse roles regulating lipid homeostasis, cellular differentiation, proliferation and the immune response. PPARs have many potential endogenous agonists [14, 101], including 15-deoxy- $\Delta^{12,14}$ -PGJ<sub>2</sub>, prosta-

cyclin (PGI<sub>2</sub>), many fatty acids and their oxidation products, lysophosphatidic acid (LPA) [98], 13-HODE, 15S-HETE, Paz-PC, azelaoyl-PAF and leukotriene B<sub>4</sub> (LTB<sub>4</sub>). Bezafibrate acts as a non-selective agonist for the PPAR family [159]. These receptors also bind hypolipidaemic drugs (PPAR $\alpha$ ) and anti-diabetic thiazolidinediones (PPAR $\gamma$ ), as well as many non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, such as sulindac and indomethacin. Once

activated by a ligand, the receptor forms a heterodimer with members of the retinoid X receptor family and can act as a transcription factor. Although radioligand binding assays have been described for all three receptors, the radioligands are not commercially available. Commonly, receptor occupancy studies are conducted using fluorescent ligands and truncated forms of the receptor limited to the ligand binding domain.

Nomenclature	Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor- $\alpha$	Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor- $\beta/\delta$	Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor- $\gamma$
Systematic nomenclature	NR1C1	NR1C2	NR1C3
HGNC, UniProt	PPARA, Q07869	PPARD, Q03181	PPARG, P37231
Agonists	–	–	mesalazine (pIC <sub>50</sub> 1.8) [126]
Selective agonists	GW7647 (pEC <sub>50</sub> 8.2) [18, 19], CP-775146 (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.3) [68], pirinixic acid (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.3) [159], gemfibrozil (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.2) [31], ciprofibrate	GW0742X (pIC <sub>50</sub> 9) [50, 144], GW501516 (pEC <sub>50</sub> 9) [113]	GW1929 (pK <sub>i</sub> 8.8) [18], bardoxolone (Partial agonist) (pK <sub>i</sub> 8) [153], rosiglitazone (pK <sub>d</sub> 7.4) [59, 81, 165], rosiglitazone (pK <sub>i</sub> 6.9) [88], troglitazone (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.3) [59, 165], pioglitazone (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.2) [59, 129, 165], troglitazone (pK <sub>i</sub> 5.8) [8], ciglitazone (pEC <sub>50</sub> 4.6) [59]
Selective antagonists	GW6471 (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.6) [162]	GSK0660 (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.5) [134]	T0070907 (pK <sub>i</sub> 9) [78], GW9662 (Irreversible inhibition) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.1) [79], CDDO-Me (pK <sub>i</sub> 6.9) [153]

**Comments:** As with the estrogen receptor antagonists, many agents show tissue-selective efficacy (*e.g.* [13, 110, 125]). Agonists with mixed activity at PPAR $\alpha$  and PPAR $\gamma$  have also been described (*e.g.* [35, 52, 163]).

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## 1D. Rev-Erb receptors

Nuclear hormone receptors → 1D. Rev-Erb receptors

**Overview:** Rev-erb receptors (**nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Nuclear Hormone Receptors [7]**) have yet to be officially paired with an endogenous ligand, but are thought to be activated by heme.

Nomenclature	Rev-Erb- $\alpha$	Rev-Erb- $\beta$
Systematic nomenclature	NR1D1	NR1D2
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">NR1D1</a> , <a href="#">P20393</a>	<a href="#">NR1D2</a> , <a href="#">Q14995</a>
Endogenous agonists	<a href="#">heme</a> (Selective) [ <a href="#">122</a> , <a href="#">164</a> ]	<a href="#">heme</a> (Selective) [ <a href="#">122</a> , <a href="#">164</a> ]
Selective agonists	<a href="#">GSK4112</a> (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.4) [ <a href="#">51</a> ], <a href="#">GSK4112</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.6) [ <a href="#">73</a> ]	–
Selective antagonists	<a href="#">SR8278</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.5) [ <a href="#">73</a> ]	–

### Further Reading

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## 1F. Retinoic acid-related orphans

Nuclear hormone receptors → 1F. Retinoic acid-related orphans

**Overview:** Retinoic acid receptor-related orphan receptors (ROR, **nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Nuclear Hormone Receptors [7]**) have yet to be assigned a definitive endogenous ligand, although ROR $\alpha$  may be synthesized with a ‘captured’ agonist such as [cholesterol](#) [66, 67].

Nomenclature	RAR-related orphan receptor- $\alpha$	RAR-related orphan receptor- $\beta$	RAR-related orphan receptor- $\gamma$
Systematic nomenclature	NR1F1	NR1F2	NR1F3
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">RORA</a> , P35398	<a href="#">RORB</a> , Q92753	<a href="#">RORC</a> , P51449
Endogenous agonists	<a href="#">cholesterol</a> (Selective) [67, 115]	–	–
Selective agonists	<a href="#">7-hydroxycholesterol</a> [15], <a href="#">cholesterol sulphate</a> [15, 67]	–	–

**Comments:** [tretinoin](#) shows selectivity for ROR $\beta$  within the ROR family [139]. ROR $\alpha$  has been suggested to be a nuclear receptor responding to [melatonin](#) [158].

### Further Reading

Benoit G *et al.* (2006) International Union of Pharmacology. LXVI. Orphan nuclear receptors. *Pharmacol. Rev.* **58**: 798-836 [PMID:17132856]



# 1H. Liver X receptor-like receptors

Nuclear hormone receptors → 1H. Liver X receptor-like receptors

**Overview:** Liver X and farnesoid X receptors (LXR and FXR, **nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Nuclear Hormone Receptors [105]**) are members of a steroid analogue-activated nuclear receptor subfamily, which form heterodimers with members of the retinoid X receptor family. Endogenous ligands for LXRs include hydroxycholesterols (OHC), while FXRs appear to be activated by bile acids.

Nomenclature	Farnesoid X receptor	Farnesoid X receptor-β	Liver X receptor-α	Liver X receptor-β
Systematic nomenclature	NR1H4	NR1H5	NR1H3	NR1H2
HGNC, UniProt	<i>NR1H4</i> , Q96R11	<i>NR1H5P</i> , –	<i>NR1H3</i> , Q13133	<i>NR1H2</i> , P55055
Potency order	chenodeoxycholic acid > lithocholic acid, deoxycholic acid [93, 116]	–	20S-hydroxycholesterol, 22R-hydroxycholesterol, 24(S)-hydroxycholesterol > 25-hydroxycholesterol, 27-hydroxycholesterol [80]	20S-hydroxycholesterol, 22R-hydroxycholesterol, 24(S)-hydroxycholesterol > 25-hydroxycholesterol, 27-hydroxycholesterol [80]
Endogenous agonists	–	lanosterol (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6) [114] – Mouse	–	–
Selective agonists	GW4064 (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.8) [95], obeticholic acid (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7) [117], fexaramine (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.6) [36]	–	–	–
Selective antagonists	guggulsterone (pIC <sub>50</sub> 5.7–6) [161]	–	–	–

**Comments:** T0901317 [123] and GW3965 [28] are synthetic agonists acting at both LXRα and LXRβ with less than 10-fold selectivity.

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## 11. Vitamin D receptor-like receptors

Nuclear hormone receptors → 11. Vitamin D receptor-like receptors

**Overview:** Vitamin D (VDR), Pregnane X (PXR) and Constitutive Androstane (CAR) receptors (**nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Nuclear Hormone Receptors [105]**) are members of the NR1I family of nuclear receptors, which form heterodimers with members of the retinoid X receptor family. PXR and CAR are activated by a range of exogenous compounds, with no established endogenous physiological agonists, although high concentrations of bile acids and bile pigments activate PXR and CAR [105].

	Vitamin D receptor	Pregnane X receptor	Constitutive androstane receptor
Nomenclature	NR1I1	NR1I2	NR1I3
Systematic nomenclature	NR1I1	NR1I2	NR1I3
HGNC, UniProt	VDR, P11473	NR1I2, O75469	NR1I3, Q14994
Endogenous agonists	1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D3 (pK <sub>d</sub> 8.9–9.2) [12, 39]	17β-estradiol (Selective) [64]	–
Selective agonists	seocalcitol (pK <sub>d</sub> 9.6) [29, 157], doxercalciferol	hyperforin (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.6) [106, 156], 5β-pregnane-3,20-dione (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.4) [64], lovastatin (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.3–6) [82], rifampicin (pEC <sub>50</sub> 5.5–6) [16, 82]	TCPOBOP (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.7) [149] – Mouse, CITCO (pEC <sub>50</sub> 7.3) [92]
Selective antagonists	TEI-9647 (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.2) [128] – Chicken, ZK159222 (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.5) [42, 60]	–	–
Comments	–	–	clotrimazole [107] and T0901317 [69] although acting at other sites, function as antagonists of the constitutive androstane receptor.

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## 2A. Hepatocyte nuclear factor-4 receptors

Nuclear hormone receptors → 2A. Hepatocyte nuclear factor-4 receptors

**Overview:** The nomenclature of hepatocyte nuclear factor-4 receptors is agreed by the **NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Nuclear Hormone Receptors** [7]. While linoleic acid has been identified as the endogenous ligand for HNF4 $\alpha$  its function remains ambiguous [167]. HNF4 $\gamma$  has yet to be paired with an endogenous ligand.

Nomenclature	Hepatocyte nuclear factor-4- $\alpha$	Hepatocyte nuclear factor-4- $\gamma$
Systematic nomenclature	NR2A1	NR2A2
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">HNF4A</a> , <a href="#">P41235</a>	<a href="#">HNF4G</a> , <a href="#">Q14541</a>
Endogenous agonists	<a href="#">linoleic acid</a> (Selective) [167]	–
Selective antagonists	<a href="#">BI6015</a> [72]	–
Comments	HNF4 $\alpha$ has constitutive transactivation activity [167] and binds DNA as a homodimer [63].	–

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## 2B. Retinoid X receptors

Nuclear hormone receptors → 2B. Retinoid X receptors

**Overview:** Retinoid X receptors (**nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Nuclear Hormone Receptors [45]**) are NR2B family members activated by [alitretinoin](#) and the RXR-selective agonists [bexarotene](#) and [LG100268](#), sometimes referred to as rexinoids. [UVI3003 \[109\]](#) and [HX 531 \[37\]](#) have been described as a pan-RXR antagonists. These receptors form RXR-RAR heterodimers and RXR-RXR homodimers [\[23, 97\]](#).

Nomenclature	Retinoid X receptor-α	Retinoid X receptor-β	Retinoid X receptor-γ
Systematic nomenclature	NR2B1	NR2B2	NR2B3
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">RXRA</a> , <a href="#">P19793</a>	<a href="#">RXRB</a> , <a href="#">P28702</a>	<a href="#">RXRG</a> , <a href="#">P48443</a>
(Sub)family-selective agonists	<a href="#">bexarotene</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.4) [ <a href="#">17</a> , <a href="#">22</a> , <a href="#">146</a> ]	<a href="#">bexarotene</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.7) [ <a href="#">17</a> , <a href="#">22</a> , <a href="#">146</a> ]	<a href="#">bexarotene</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.5) [ <a href="#">17</a> , <a href="#">22</a> , <a href="#">146</a> ]
Selective agonists	<a href="#">CD3254</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.5) [ <a href="#">48</a> ]	–	–

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Duong V *et al.* (2011) The molecular physiology of nuclear retinoic acid receptors. From health to disease. *Biochim. Biophys. Acta* **1812**: 1023-31 [[PMID:20970498](#)]

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## 2C. Testicular receptors

Nuclear hormone receptors → 2C. Testicular receptors

**Overview:** Testicular receptors (**nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Nuclear Hormone Receptors [7]**) have yet to be officially paired with an endogenous ligand, although testicular receptor 4 has been reported to respond to retinoids.

Nomenclature	Testicular receptor 2	Testicular receptor 4
Systematic nomenclature	NR2C1	NR2C2
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">NR2C1</a> , <a href="#">P13056</a>	<a href="#">NR2C2</a> , <a href="#">P49116</a>
Endogenous agonists	–	<a href="#">retinol</a> (Selective) [ <a href="#">173</a> ], <a href="#">tretinoin</a> (Selective) [ <a href="#">173</a> ]
Comments	Forms a heterodimer with TR4; gene disruption appears without effect on testicular development or function [ <a href="#">135</a> ].	Forms a heterodimer with TR2.

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## 2E. Tailless-like receptors

Nuclear hormone receptors → 2E. Tailless-like receptors

**Overview:** Tailless-like receptors (nomenclature as agreed by the [NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Nuclear Hormone Receptors \[7\]](#)) have yet to be officially paired with an endogenous ligand.

Nomenclature	TLX	PNR
Systematic nomenclature	NR2E1	NR2E3
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">NR2E1</a> , <a href="#">Q9Y466</a>	<a href="#">NR2E3</a> , <a href="#">Q9Y5X4</a>
Comments	Gene disruption is associated with abnormal brain development [ <a href="#">76</a> , <a href="#">104</a> ].	–

### Further Reading

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## 2F. COUP-TF-like receptors

Nuclear hormone receptors → 2F. COUP-TF-like receptors

**Overview:** COUP-TF-like receptors (**nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Nuclear Hormone Receptors [7]**) have yet to be officially paired with an endogenous ligand.

Nomenclature	COUP-TF1	COUP-TF2	V-erbA-related gene
Systematic nomenclature	NR2F1	NR2F2	NR2F6
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">NR2F1</a> , <a href="#">P10589</a>	<a href="#">NR2F2</a> , <a href="#">P24468</a>	<a href="#">NR2F6</a> , <a href="#">P10588</a>
Comments	Gene disruption is perinatally lethal [ <a href="#">121</a> ].	Gene disruption is embryonically lethal [ <a href="#">118</a> ].	Gene disruption impairs CNS development [ <a href="#">155</a> ].

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## 3B. Estrogen-related receptors

Nuclear hormone receptors → 3B. Estrogen-related receptors

**Overview:** Estrogen-related receptors (**nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Nuclear Hormone Receptors [7]**) have yet to be officially paired with an endogenous ligand.

Nomenclature	Estrogen-related receptor- $\alpha$	Estrogen-related receptor- $\beta$	Estrogen-related receptor- $\gamma$
Systematic nomenclature	NR3B1	NR3B2	NR3B3
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">ESRR<math>\alpha</math></a> , <a href="#">P11474</a>	<a href="#">ESRR<math>\beta</math></a> , <a href="#">O95718</a>	<a href="#">ESRR<math>\gamma</math></a> , <a href="#">P62508</a>
Comments	Activated by some dietary flavonoids [ <a href="#">141</a> ]; activated by the synthetic agonist <a href="#">GSK4716</a> [ <a href="#">176</a> ] and blocked by <a href="#">XCT790</a> [ <a href="#">160</a> ].	May be activated by <a href="#">DY131</a> [ <a href="#">166</a> ].	May be activated by <a href="#">DY131</a> [ <a href="#">166</a> ].

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## 4A. Nerve growth factor IB-like receptors

Nuclear hormone receptors → 4A. Nerve growth factor IB-like receptors

**Overview:** Nerve growth factor IB-like receptors (**nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Nuclear Hormone Receptors [7]**) have yet to be officially paired with an endogenous ligand.

Nomenclature	Nerve Growth factor IB	Nuclear receptor related 1	Neuron-derived orphan receptor 1
Systematic nomenclature	NR4A1	NR4A2	NR4A3
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">NR4A1</a> , <a href="#">P22736</a>	<a href="#">NR4A2</a> , <a href="#">P43354</a>	<a href="#">NR4A3</a> , <a href="#">Q92570</a>
Comments	An endogenous agonist, <a href="#">cytosporone B</a> , has been described [ <a href="#">168</a> ], although structural analysis and molecular modelling has not identified a ligand binding site [ <a href="#">4</a> , <a href="#">40</a> , <a href="#">154</a> ].	–	–

### Further Reading

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## 5A. Fushi tarazu F1-like receptors

Nuclear hormone receptors → 5A. Fushi tarazu F1-like receptors

**Overview:** Fushi tarazu F1-like receptors (**nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Nuclear Hormone Receptors [7]**) have yet to be officially paired with an endogenous ligand.

Nomenclature	Steroidogenic factor 1	Liver receptor homolog-1
Systematic nomenclature	NR5A1	NR5A2
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">NR5A1</a> , <a href="#">Q13285</a>	<a href="#">NR5A2</a> , <a href="#">O00482</a>
Comments	Reported to be inhibited by <a href="#">AC45594</a> [32] and <a href="#">SID7969543</a> [91].	–

### Further Reading

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## 6A. Germ cell nuclear factor receptors

Nuclear hormone receptors → 6A. Germ cell nuclear factor receptors

**Overview:** Germ cell nuclear factor receptors (**nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Nuclear Hormone Receptors [7]**) have yet to be officially paired with an endogenous ligand.

Nomenclature	Germ cell nuclear factor
Systematic nomenclature	NR6A1
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">NR6A1</a> , <a href="#">Q15406</a>

### Further Reading

- Benoit G *et al.* (2006) International Union of Pharmacology. LXVI. Orphan nuclear receptors. *Pharmacol. Rev.* **58**: 798-836 [[PMID:17132856](#)]
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## OB. DAX-like receptors

Nuclear hormone receptors → OB. DAX-like receptors

**Overview:** Dax-like receptors (**nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Nuclear Hormone Receptors [7]**) have yet to be officially paired with an endogenous ligand.

Nomenclature	DAX1	SHP
Systematic nomenclature	NR0B1	NR0B2
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">NR0B1</a> , <a href="#">P51843</a>	<a href="#">NR0B2</a> , <a href="#">Q15466</a>

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# Steroid hormone receptors

Nuclear hormone receptors → Steroid hormone receptors

**Overview:** Steroid hormone receptors (**nomenclature as agreed by the NC-IUPHAR Subcommittee on Nuclear Hormone Receptors [30, 89]**) are nuclear hormone receptors of the NR3 class, with endogenous agonists that may be divided into 3-hydroxysteroids ([estrone](#) and [17β-estradiol](#)) and 3-ketosteroids ([dihydrotestosterone](#) [DHT], [aldosterone](#), [cortisol](#), [corticosterone](#), [progesterone](#) and [testosterone](#)). These receptors exist as dimers coupled with chaperone molecules (such as [hsp90β](#) ([HSP90AB1](#), [P08238](#)) and immunophilin FKBP52:[FKBP4](#), [Q02790](#)), which are shed on binding the steroid hormone. Although rapid signalling

phenomena are observed [[84](#), [120](#)], the principal signalling cascade appears to involve binding of the activated receptors to nuclear hormone response elements of the genome, with a 15-nucleotide consensus sequence AGAACAnnnTGTCT (*i.e.* an inverted palindrome) as homo- or heterodimers. They also affect transcription by protein-protein interactions with other transcription factors, such as activator protein 1 (AP-1) and nuclear factor κB (NF-κB). Splice variants of each of these receptors can form functional or non-functional monomers that can dimerize to form functional or non-functional receptors. For example, alternative

splicing of PR mRNA produces A and B monomers that combine to produce functional AA, AB and BB receptors with distinct characteristics [[150](#)].

A 7TM receptor responsive to estrogen ([GPER1](#), [Q99527](#), also known as GPR30, see [[119](#)]) has been described. Human orthologues of 7TM 'membrane progesterin receptors' ([PAQR7](#), [PAQR8](#) and [PAQR5](#)), initially discovered in fish [[174](#), [175](#)], appear to localize to intracellular membranes and respond to 'non-genomic' progesterone analogues independently of G proteins [[137](#)].

## 3A. Estrogen receptors

Nuclear hormone receptors → Steroid hormone receptors → 3A. Estrogen receptors

**Overview:** Estrogen receptor (ER) activity regulates diverse physiological processes *via* transcriptional modulation of target genes. The selection of target genes and the magnitude of the response, be it induction or repression, are determined by many factors, including the effect of the hormone ligand and DNA binding on ER structural conformation, and the local cellular regulatory environment. The cellular environment defines the specific complement of DNA enhancer and promoter elements present and the availability of coregulators to form functional transcription complexes. Together, these determinants control the resulting biological response.

Nomenclature	<a href="#">Estrogen receptor-α</a>	<a href="#">Estrogen receptor-β</a>
Systematic nomenclature	NR3A1	NR3A2
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">ESR1</a> , <a href="#">P03372</a>	<a href="#">ESR2</a> , <a href="#">Q92731</a>
Endogenous agonists	<a href="#">estriol</a> (pK <sub>i</sub> 8.7) [ <a href="#">75</a> ], <a href="#">estrone</a> (pK <sub>i</sub> 8.5) [ <a href="#">75</a> ]	–
Selective agonists	<a href="#">propylpyrazoletriol</a> (pK <sub>i</sub> 9.6) [ <a href="#">74</a> , <a href="#">138</a> ], <a href="#">ethinyl estradiol</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.7) [ <a href="#">62</a> ]	<a href="#">WAY200070</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.5–9) [ <a href="#">94</a> ], <a href="#">diarylpropionitril</a> (pK <sub>i</sub> 8.6) [ <a href="#">100</a> , <a href="#">138</a> ], <a href="#">prinaberel</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 8.3) [ <a href="#">94</a> ]
(Sub)family-selective antagonists	<a href="#">bazedoxifene</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.6) [ <a href="#">103</a> ]	<a href="#">bazedoxifene</a> (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.1) [ <a href="#">103</a> ]
Selective antagonists	<a href="#">clomiphene</a> (pK <sub>i</sub> 8.9) [ <a href="#">3</a> ], <a href="#">methyl-piperidino-pyrazole</a> (pK <sub>i</sub> 8.6) [ <a href="#">142</a> ]	<a href="#">R,R-THC</a> (pK <sub>i</sub> 8.4) [ <a href="#">99</a> , <a href="#">143</a> ], <a href="#">PHTPP</a> (pK <sub>i</sub> 6.9) [ <a href="#">172</a> ]

**Comments:** [R,R-THC](#) exhibits partial agonist activity at ERα [[99](#), [143](#)]. Estrogen receptors may be blocked non-selectively by [tamoxifen](#) and [raloxifene](#) and labelled by [<sup>3</sup>H][17β-estradiol](#) and [<sup>3</sup>H][tamoxifen](#). Many agents thought initially to be antagonists

at estrogen receptors appear to have tissue-specific efficacy (*e.g.* [Tamoxifen](#) is an antagonist at estrogen receptors in the breast, but is an agonist at estrogen receptors in the uterus), hence the descriptor SERM (selective estrogen receptor modulator) or

SnuRM (selective nuclear receptor modulator). [Y134](#) has been suggested to be an ERα-selective estrogen receptor modulator [[112](#)].

## 3C. 3-Ketosteroid receptors

Nuclear hormone receptors → Steroid hormone receptors → 3C. 3-Ketosteroid receptors

Nomenclature	Androgen receptor	Glucocorticoid receptor	Mineralocorticoid receptor	Progesterone receptor
Systematic nomenclature	NR3C4	NR3C1	NR3C2	NR3C3
HGNC, UniProt	<a href="#">AR</a> , <a href="#">P10275</a>	<a href="#">NR3C1</a> , <a href="#">P04150</a>	<a href="#">NR3C2</a> , <a href="#">P08235</a>	<a href="#">PGR</a> , <a href="#">P06401</a>
Rank order of potency	dihydrotestosterone > testosterone	cortisol, corticosterone >> aldosterone, deoxycortisone [ <a href="#">127</a> ]	corticosterone, cortisol, aldosterone, progesterone [ <a href="#">127</a> ]	progesterone
Endogenous agonists	<a href="#">dihydrotestosterone</a> (p <i>K</i> <sub>d</sub> 9.3) [ <a href="#">147</a> ]	–	<a href="#">aldosterone</a> (Selective) (p <i>IC</i> <sub>50</sub> 9.8–10) [ <a href="#">58</a> , <a href="#">127</a> ]	<a href="#">progesterone</a> (Selective) (p <i>EC</i> <sub>50</sub> 8.8) [ <a href="#">38</a> ]
Agonists	<a href="#">methyltestosterone</a> (Androgen receptor promoter activity in luciferase reporter assay) (p <i>EC</i> <sub>50</sub> 9.7) [ <a href="#">1</a> ], <a href="#">danazol</a> (p <i>K</i> <sub>i</sub> 8) [ <a href="#">24</a> ] – Rat, <a href="#">ethylestrenol</a> , <a href="#">nandrolone</a>	–	–	–
Selective agonists	<a href="#">testosterone propionate</a> (p <i>K</i> <sub>i</sub> 9.6) [ <a href="#">96</a> ], <a href="#">mibolerone</a> (p <i>IC</i> <sub>50</sub> 9) [ <a href="#">49</a> ], <a href="#">fluoxymesterone</a> (p <i>K</i> <sub>i</sub> 8.2) [ <a href="#">61</a> ], <a href="#">methyltrienolone</a> (p <i>EC</i> <sub>50</sub> <5) [ <a href="#">152</a> ], <a href="#">dromostanolone propionate</a>	<a href="#">fluticasone propionate</a> (p <i>IC</i> <sub>50</sub> 9.3) [ <a href="#">11</a> ], <a href="#">clobetasol propionate</a> (p <i>K</i> <sub>i</sub> 9.2) [ <a href="#">3</a> ], <a href="#">desoximetasone</a> (p <i>K</i> <sub>i</sub> 8.9) [ <a href="#">3</a> ], <a href="#">fluorometholone</a> (p <i>K</i> <sub>i</sub> 8.8) [ <a href="#">3</a> ], <a href="#">flunisolide</a> (p <i>K</i> <sub>i</sub> 8.6) [ <a href="#">3</a> ], <a href="#">diflorasone diacetate</a> (p <i>K</i> <sub>i</sub> 8.5) [ <a href="#">3</a> ], <a href="#">fluocinolone acetonide</a> (p <i>IC</i> <sub>50</sub> 8.5) [ <a href="#">3</a> ], <a href="#">beclometasone</a> (p <i>K</i> <sub>i</sub> 8.4) [ <a href="#">3</a> ], <a href="#">methylprednisolone</a> (p <i>K</i> <sub>i</sub> 8.3) [ <a href="#">3</a> ], <a href="#">fluocinonide</a> (p <i>IC</i> <sub>50</sub> 8.3) [ <a href="#">3</a> ], <a href="#">betamethasone</a> (p <i>IC</i> <sub>50</sub> 8.1) [ <a href="#">3</a> ], <a href="#">budesonide</a> (p <i>EC</i> <sub>50</sub> 7.9) [ <a href="#">102</a> ], <a href="#">triamcinolone</a> (p <i>IC</i> <sub>50</sub> 7.7) [ <a href="#">87</a> ], <a href="#">ZK216348</a> (p <i>IC</i> <sub>50</sub> 7.7) [ <a href="#">132</a> ], <a href="#">ciclesonide</a> (p <i>K</i> <sub>i</sub> 7.4) [ <a href="#">6</a> ], <a href="#">prednisone</a> (p <i>K</i> <sub>i</sub> 6.3) [ <a href="#">3</a> ], <a href="#">RU26988</a> – Unknown, <a href="#">RU28362</a> , <a href="#">difluprednate</a> [ <a href="#">145</a> ], <a href="#">fluticasone</a>	–	<a href="#">medroxyprogesterone</a> (Affinity at human PR-A) (p <i>K</i> <sub>i</sub> 9.5) [ <a href="#">170</a> ], <a href="#">ORG2058</a> , <a href="#">levonorgestrel</a> [ <a href="#">10</a> , <a href="#">130</a> ]

(continued)				
Nomenclature	Androgen receptor	Glucocorticoid receptor	Mineralocorticoid receptor	Progesterone receptor
Antagonists	cyproterone acetate (pK <sub>i</sub> 7.8) [55]	mifepristone (pK <sub>d</sub> 9.4) [57, 127]	nimodipine (inhibition of aldosterone-induced luciferase activity in a reporter system driven by the mineralocorticoid receptor ligand binding domain) (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.8) [34]	–
Selective antagonists	bicalutamide (pK <sub>i</sub> 7.7) [71], PF0998425 (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.1–7.5) [86], enzalutamide (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.4) [148], nilutamide (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.1–7.1) [136], hydroxyflutamide (pEC <sub>50</sub> 6.6) [152], galeterone (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.4) [56], flutamide (Displacement of <sup>3</sup> [H] testosterone from wild-type androgen receptors) (pK <sub>i</sub> 5.4) [151]	onapristone (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.6) [169], ZK112993	finerenone (pIC <sub>50</sub> 7.7) [21], eplerenone (pK <sub>i</sub> 6.9) [5], onapristone (pIC <sub>50</sub> 6.3) [169], RU28318, ZK112993	ulipristal acetate (pIC <sub>50</sub> 9.7) [124], mifepristone (Mixed) (pK <sub>i</sub> 9) [171], onapristone (pK <sub>i</sub> 7.7) [54], ZK112993
Labelled ligands	[ <sup>3</sup> H]dihydrotestosterone (Selective Agonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]methyltrienolone (Selective Agonist), [ <sup>3</sup> H]mibolerone (Agonist)	[ <sup>3</sup> H]dexamethasone (Agonist)	[ <sup>3</sup> H]aldosterone (Selective Agonist) (pK <sub>d</sub> 9.5–9.4) [44, 140] – Rat	[ <sup>3</sup> H]ORG2058 (Selective Agonist)

**Comments:** [<sup>3</sup>H]dexamethasone also binds to MR *in vitro*. PR antagonists have been suggested to subdivide into Type I (e.g. onapristone) and Type II (e.g. ZK112993) groups. These groups appear to promote binding of PR to DNA with different efficacies and evoke distinct conformational changes in the receptor, leading to a transcription-neutral complex [43, 83]. Mutations in AR underlie testicular feminization and androgen insensitivity syndromes, spinal and bulbar muscular atrophy (Kennedy's disease).

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